

Stated Meeting, February 4, 1859.

Dr. Wood, President, in the Chair.

Present, eighteen members.

Letters were read from the Regents of the University of the State of New York, dated Albany, Jan. 17, 1859, announcing a donation for the Library;—from Col. Graham, dated Chicago, Jan. 31, 1859, enclosing a donation of \$33.62, in aid of the Society's publication;—and from Oswald Thompson, dated Jan. 25, 1859; Ed. C. Evans, M.D. dated Highfield, Feb. 1, 1859; and Caspar Wister, dated Jan. 29, 1859, severally acknowledging the receipt of notice of election to membership.

The following donations for the Library were announced:—

Monthly Notices R. Astr. Soc. XIX. 2. London.—*From the Soc. Geol. Report, S. W. Branch Pacific R. R. in Missouri by G. C. Swallow. St. Louis, 1859. (100 pp. with a map.) 8vo.—From G. C. Swallow.*

Philada. Water Works, An. Rep. of Chief Engineer. Philada. Jan. 1859. (50 pp. 2 copies.)—*From City Councils.*

Mr. Fraley announced the decease, at Boston, of the American historian, Wm. H. Prescott, a member of this Society, aged 63 years; and suggested that Mr. Bancroft might perhaps be present at some future meeting, and be induced to deliver a eulogy on the deceased.

Mr. James announced the decease, at Cambridge, Mass. of the American astronomer, Wm. C. Bond, a member of the Society.

The Committee directed at the last meeting to be appointed to consider and report upon the condition of the Society, was named by the President to consist of Mr. Foulke, Dr. F. Bache, Dr. Dunglison, Prof. Cresson, Mr. Lea, Mr. Fraley, Judge King, Dr. R. E. Rogers, Dr. Leidy, Dr. Le Conte, and (on motion of Mr. Foulke) Dr. Bell and Dr. Laroche.

The Librarian presented estimates of the cost of additional shelves to accommodate the books, which, on motion of Dr.

Bell, were referred to the consideration of the Committee on the Hall, with power to act.

Dr. R. E. Rogers exhibited the capacity of the Rumkorff coil (as modified by Ritchie), for generating electricity of high tension and great volume. Dr. Rogers explained, by experiments with a small but powerful electrical machine armed with a wooden ring, in the hollow of which was concealed a solid wire ring (not alluded to by the maker or describers of the machine), how the volume of the common electrical machine can be indefinitely increased, without diminishing the tension, by simply protecting its condenser from the air, which, even in its most favourable conditions, cannot but occupy itself incessantly with carrying off the electricity. Dr. Rogers succeeded in affording such protection to the common condenser by simply making it hollow, and facing the inside instead of the outside with a metallic surface. The same result is obtained by insulating the outside surface by means of a heavy coat of varnish. A silk gown thrown over the operator standing on an insulating stool, makes him a powerful condenser, upon this principle.

Stated Meeting, February 18, 1859.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Present, thirteen members.

Letters announcing donations for the library were read from the I. R. Geol. Inst. dated Vienna, Nov. 30, 1857, Jan. 10, 1858;—the I. Soc. of Nat. of Moscow, dated June 5–17, 1858;—the R. Sax. Soc. dated Leipzig, April 28, and July 18, 1858;—the U. Hess. S. N. H. dated Giessen, Aug. 6, 1858;—the R. Dan. S. dated Copenhagen July 1, 1858;—the R. A. S. at Amsterdam, dated Dec. 10, 1857, and June 23, 1858; and the scientific commission of the Zool. Gard. of Amsterdam, dated March, 1858.

Letters were also read from the R. A. S. at Amsterdam, acknowledging the receipt of the Society's publications:—from Dr. D. Bierens de Haar, calling the favourable attention of the